

This story is dedicated to children everywhere in the hope that they will feel loved just for being who they are.

ONCE UPON A TIME, A LONELY BEAR LEFT THE WOODS FOR THE CITY, LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO WITH HIS LIFE.

Fred: Well, here I am, out of the woods, looking for something to do with my life. I don't know what I want to be.



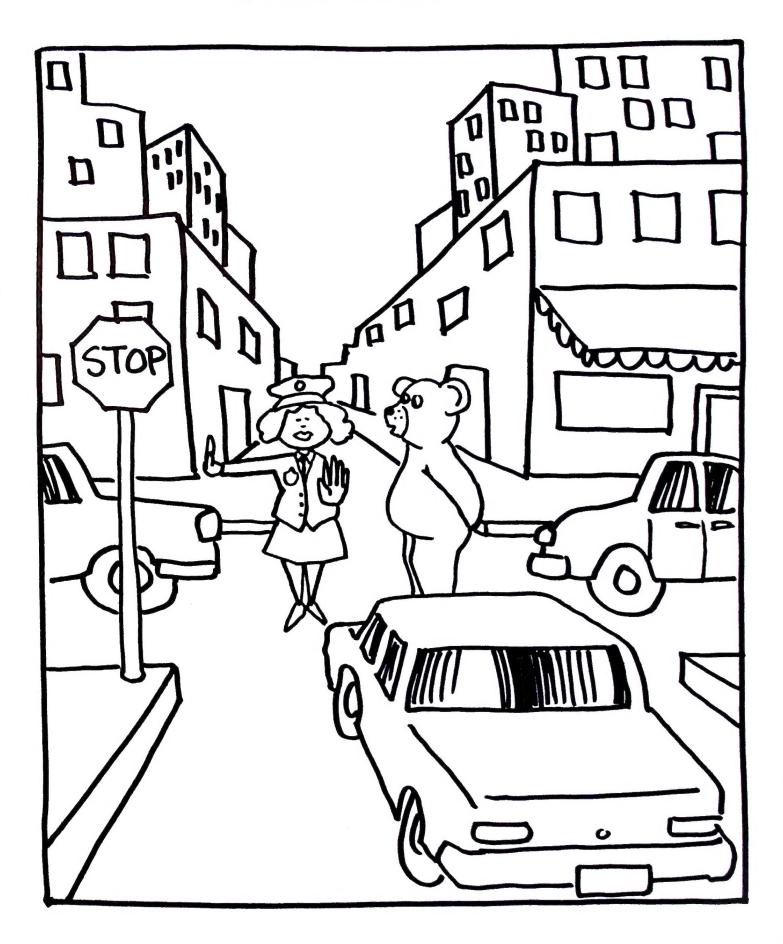
THE FIRST PERSON HE MET WAS A POLICE OFFICER DIRECTING TRAFFIC.

Fred: Excuse me, ma'am. I don't know what I want to be.

Police Officer: Well, how about becoming a police officer? A police officer is the best thing to be in the whole world.

FRED THOUGHT FOR A MOMENT.

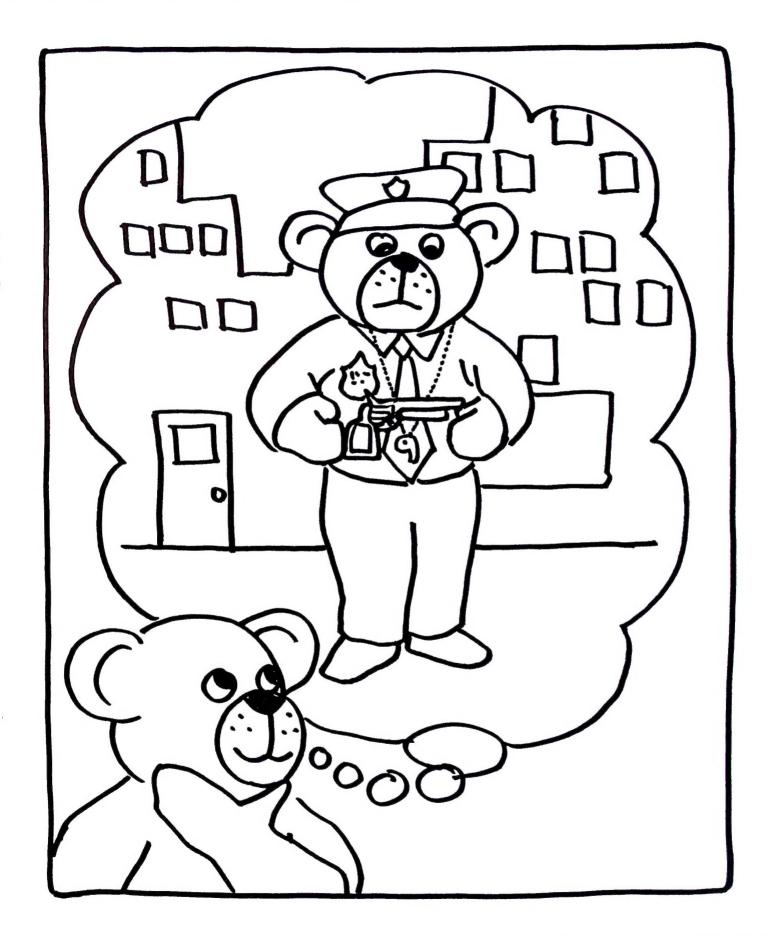
Fred: That could be fun. What would I have to do?



Police Officer: It's simple. You get a badge, and a whistle, and a hat, and a gun.

Fred: A gun? I'm afraid bears don't like guns.
They make loud noises and besides, people point them at us in the woods.

Police Officer: Then I guess you'll have to be something else.



SO FRED KEPT WALKING. THE NEXT PERSON HE MET WAS A LETTER CARRIER.

Fred: Hey, that looks like fun. Could I be a letter carrier?

Letter Carrier: Sure, being a letter carrier is the best thing in the whole world to be.



Letter Carrier: Now, you'll have to be strong.

Fred: Bears are strong.

Letter Carrier: You have to like to walk.

Fred: Bears are good walkers.

Letter Carrier: And you have to work in rain, and sleet, and snow.

Fred: Bears don't like the snow.

Letter Carrier: Well, then you can't be a letter carrier. You'll have to be something else.



SO, FRED CONTINUED. THE NEXT PERSON HE MET WAS A FIREFIGHTER WATERING DOWN A PILE OF SMOKEY LEAVES.

Fred: Gee, I could be a firefighter.

Firefighter: Sure you can, being a firefighter is the best thing in the whole world to be.



Firefighter: You can ride in the fire truck.

Fred: I'd like that.

Firefighter: And you could ring the bell.

Fred: That would be fun.

Firefighter: But you'll have to put up with a little smoke.

Fred: Bears don't like smoke. Haven't you heard of my cousin Smokey?

Firefighter: Then I guess you can't be a firefighter.



SO FRED KEPT WALKING. THE NEXT PERSON HE MET WAS A BAKER CARRYING A HUGE CAKE.

Fred: Hmmm . . . Bet I could be a baker. That could be lots of fun.

**Baker:** You bet. Being a baker is the best thing in the world.



Baker: Can you make cakes?

Fred: I can learn.

Baker: Can you put frosting on a cake?

Fred: I could do that.

Baker: And you have to be delicate for your

decorating work.

Fred: Oh, sorry. bears aren't too delicate.

Baker: Then I guess you'll have to be something

else.



SO FRED CONTINUED TO WALK, AND SOON HE MET A KINDLY OLD GENTLEMAN WHO STOPPED TO TALK WITH HIM.

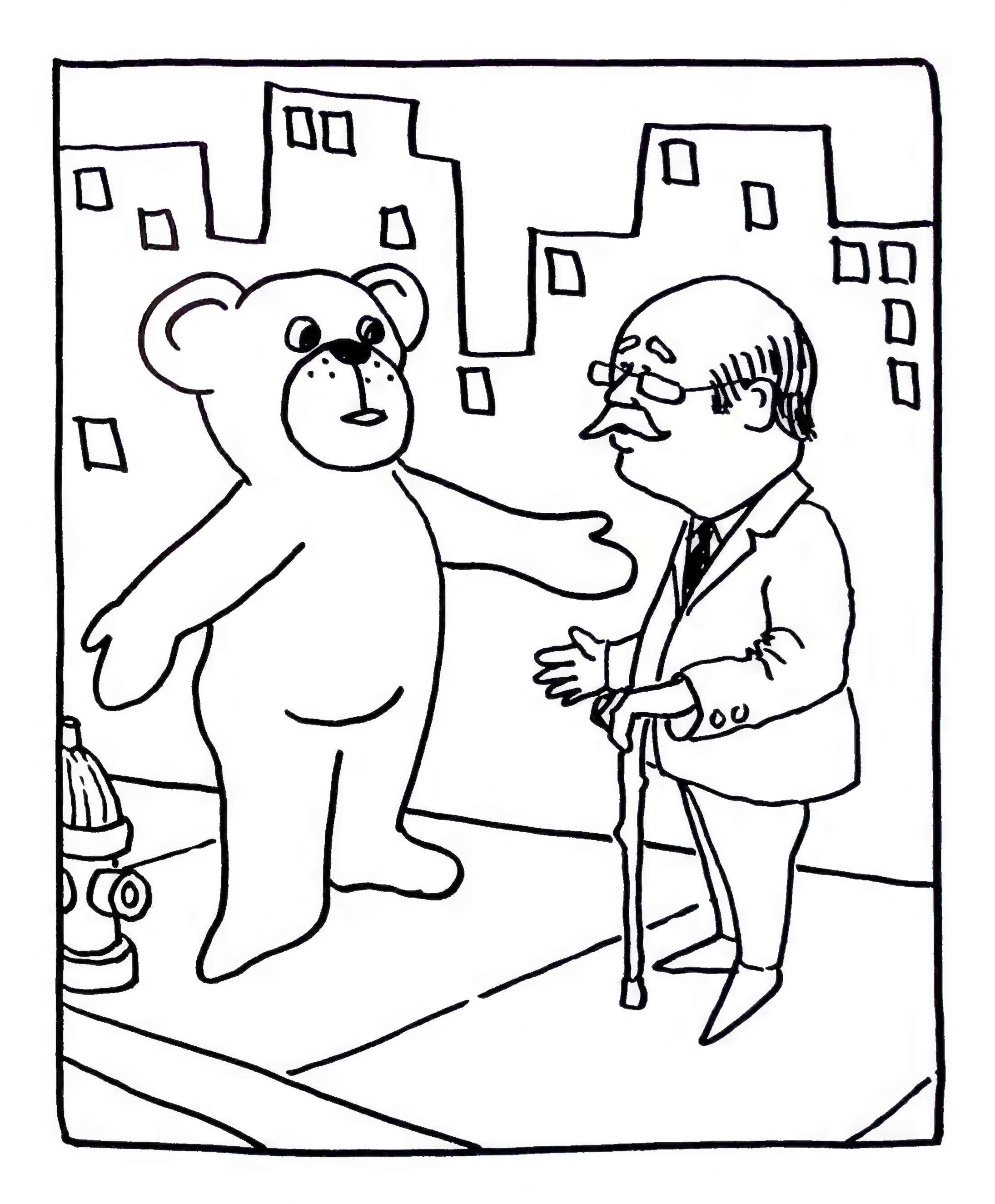
Gentleman: And who are you?

Fred: My name is Fred S. Bear.

Gentleman: What does the 'S' stand for?

Fred: Gee, I don't know. Anyway, I came out of the woods to try to find out what to be.

Gentleman: Do you have any ideas?



Fred: Well, I could have been a police officer, but I don't like guns. I could have been a letter carrier, but I don't like working in the snow.

Gentleman: Well, you could be anything you want to be, you know.

Fred: But firefighters have to put up with smoke, and bakers have to be delicate.



**Gentleman:** Well, maybe you could work for me. I own a radio station.

Fred: What would I be? An announcer? A talk show host?



Gentleman: You could be our station mascot.

Fred: What's a mascot?

Gentleman: Well, a mascot is sort of a furry friend, you know, you go out, meet people, be friendly, and love kids.

Fred: But that's what I do anyway.

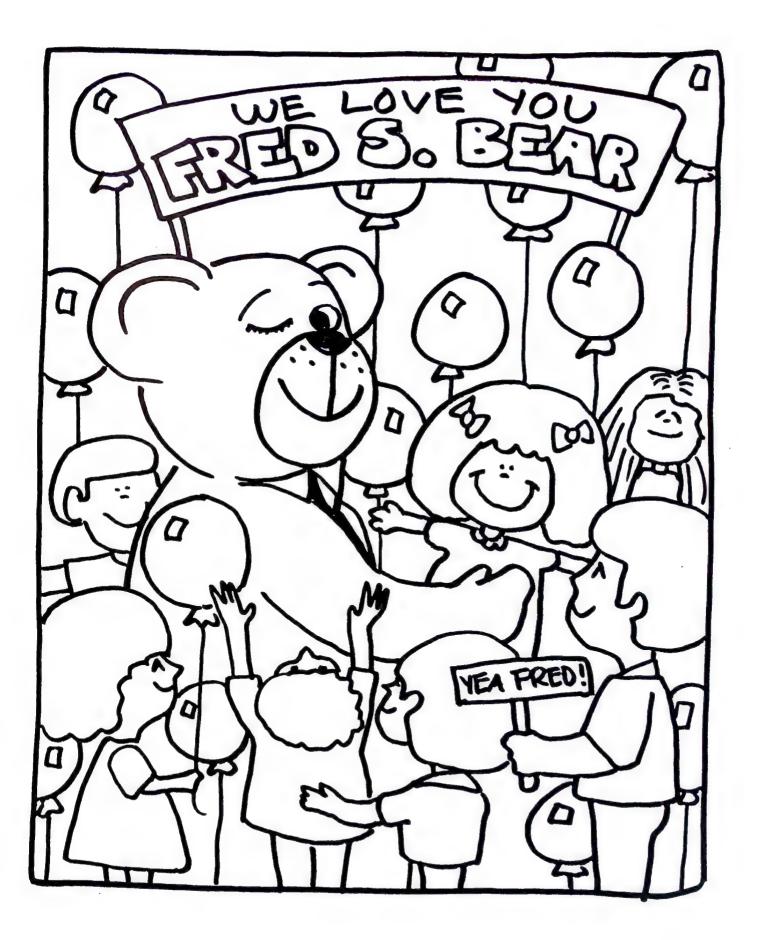
Gentleman: Sure, the best thing in the world to be is to be yourself.

Fred: Fred Self Bear. I like that.



AND THAT'S HOW FRED S. BEAR CAME TO BE AM 1320'S AMBASSADOR TO THE WORLD. AND THE MORAL OF THIS STORY IS . . . .

THERE ARE A LOT OF GOOD THINGS TO BE IN THE WORLD, BUT THE BEST THING . . . IS TO BE YOURSELF.



## THE BEST THING IN THE WORLD TO BE

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